

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces Water System Infrastructure Projects to Improve Health and Sanitation in Rural Communities

Michigan receives \$14.9 million for projects in Cass, Saginaw counties

WASHINGTON, May 27, 2010 — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the funding of water and environmental projects designed to protect public health and the environment by improving water quality and public sanitation services in 18 states. The projects, which are funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and with regular USDA Water and Environmental Program funds, are intended to provide jobs while improving rural America's infrastructure.

"These investments in water and wastewater infrastructure will help deliver safe drinking water and protect the environment throughout rural America," said Vilsack. "The projects advance the Obama Administration's economic recovery goals to rebuild the nation's infrastructure and they will create jobs in states throughout the country."

For example, in rural Michigan, the Cass County Regional Water System will receive a \$10.5 million loan to provide reliable water service and improved fire protection for residents and businesses in four townships. The project will extend water service and fire protection to over 1,800 dwelling units. This funding will provide fire hydrants and safe water, and will create or save an estimated 160 jobs.

Altogether, USDA Rural Development is today announcing \$96.5 million in funding assistance to 28 water and wastewater infrastructure projects in local communities across the country through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) and other Water and Environmental Program funding. Today's announcement includes \$74.6 million in Recovery Act funding. To date, USDA has announced \$2.57 billion in Recovery Act funds for water and environmental projects.

The Recovery Act (ARRA) funding announced today is being administered by [USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Program](#) which provides loans and grants to ensure that the necessary investments are made in water and wastewater infrastructure to deliver safe drinking water and protect the environment in rural areas.

Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreement. The Michigan projects are:

- Cass County Regional Water System (Cass County): \$10,500,000 loan (ARRA). The funding will be used for water system improvements.
- NW Utility Authority Sewer System (Saginaw County): \$4,475,000 loan (ARRA). The funding will be used for wastewater system improvements.

President Obama signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law on Feb. 17, 2009. It is designed to jumpstart the nation's economy, create or save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

More information about USDA's Recovery Act efforts is available at www.usda.gov/recovery.
More information about the Federal government's efforts on the Recovery Act is available at www.recovery.gov.

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